

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05

EUR-08 PRS-01 /040 W

-----128505 101129Z /12

R 091749Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20293

LIMDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP, TO, VT

SUBJECT: NEW ROC AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN

REF: TAIPEI 7049

1. THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO THE VATICAN ON DECEMBER 8 INFORMED US THAT PRESENT ROC AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN, CHEN CHIH-MAI, WOULD BE MAKING HIS FAREWELL CALL ON POPE PAUL VI ON JANUARY 12, 1978. HE DID NOT REVEAL ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR, BUT PASSED ON THE INFORMATION TO US IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATING THAT HE FORESAW DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS TO TRADITIONAL GIFT FOR DEPARTING AMBASSADORS--A TRAY BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF COLLEAGUES--SINCE SO FEW COUNTRIES STILL MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. HE HOPED THAT IN VIEW OF THE PERSONAL ESTEEM IN WHICH THAT AMBASSADOR WAS HELD AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NAMES
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OF THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD NOT APPEAR BELOW THE SIGNATURES, THAT PERHAPS MOST AMBASSADORS WOULD CONTRIBUTE ON A PERSONAL BASIS.

2. THE CHANGE OF ROC AMBASSADORS WILL ALLEVIATE A VATICAN PROTOCOL PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE VATICAN MADE A SPECIAL REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT OF

SENEGAL TO DELAY THE TRANSFER OF THE SENEGALESE
AMBASSADOR FROM THE VATICAN BECAUSE HIS PLACE AS
VICE DEAN OF THE CORPS WOULD THEN DEVOLVE ON THE
CHINESE AMBASSADOR, WHO IS NO. 3 IN LINE BEHIND THE
OLD AND AILING DEAN, AMBASSADOR VALLADARES OF GUATEMALA,
AND THE AMBASSADOR OF SENEGAL HENRI RENE DOODS.
APPARENTLY THE VATICAN FELT THAT SINCE THE ROC HAD NO
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES REP-
RESENTED AT THE VATICAN, AMBASSADOR CHEN WOULD HAVE
HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FULFILING THE ROLE OF VICE
DEAN OR ACTING DEAN. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771273/aaaacjnp.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
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